

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A double-metal cyanide (DMC) catalyst comprising:

- a) a double metal cyanide compound;
- b) an organic complexing ligand; and
- c) 2 to 80 wt. % of a polycarbonate, based on the amount of finished catalyst, of an aliphatic polycarbonate having hydroxyl end groups and an average molecular weight below 12,000, as determined by measurement of the OH number.

(31) Claim 2 (Previously amended): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, in which the double-metal cyanide compound is zinc hexacyanocobaltate(III).

Claim 3 (Previously amended): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, in which the organic complexing ligand is tert-butanol.

Claim 4 (Currently amended): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, in which from about 5 to 50 wt. % of polycarbonate the aliphatic polycarbonate c) is present.

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, further comprising ~~an aliphatic polycarbonate having a hydroxyl end group and an average molecular weight below 12,000, as determined by measurement of the OH number, which wherein the aliphatic polycarbonate is obtainable by reacting the reaction product of~~ a polyfunctional aliphatic hydroxyl compound with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, a dioxolanone, phosgene, a bischlorocarbonic acid ester or urea.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): The DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, further wherein the aliphatic polycarbonate comprising comprises an aliphatic polycarbonate-diol with an average molecular weight of 400 to 6000, as determined by measurement of the OH number, which is ~~obtainable by reacting the reaction product of~~ a non-vicinal diol with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, a dioxolanone, phosgene, a bischlorocarbonic acid ester or urea.

Claim 7 (Currently amended): A process for the preparation of the a DMC catalyst according to Claim 1, comprising the steps of:

(a) reacting an excess of at least one metal salt in aqueous solution with at least one metal cyanide salt in the presence of the organic complexing ligand and an aliphatic polycarbonate having hydroxyl end groups and an average molecular weight below 12,000, as determined by measurement of the OH number~~the polycarbonate~~;

B₁ Cond
(b) isolating the resultant catalyst;
(c) washing the isolated catalyst; and
(d) drying the catalyst.

Claim 8 (Previously cancelled)

Claim 9 (Previously amended): A process for the production of a polyether polyol comprising reacting an alkylene oxide onto a starter compound containing active hydrogen atoms, in the presence of the double-metal cyanide (DMC) catalyst of Claim 1.

b2
Claim 10 (New): The process of Claim 7, wherein the aliphatic polycarbonate comprises an aliphatic polycarbonate-diol with an average molecular weight of 400 to 6000, as determined by measurement of the OH number, which is the reaction product of a non-vicinal diol with diaryl carbonate, dialkyl carbonate, a dioxolanone, phosgene, a bischlorocarbonic acid ester or urea.